We claim:

1.   A method comprising:

5   a)   storing a plurality of types of medical items in a plurality of storage

                locations within a pharmacy;

         b)   storing in at least one data store in operative connection with at least one

                processor, data corresponding to each of the plurality of types of medical

                items and the corresponding storage locations within the pharmacy in

10   which each of the plurality of types of medical items are stored;

         c)   providing at least one input through at least one input device indicative of

                taking a first quantity of a first type of medical item from a first storage

                location in the pharmacy for use in a second location or in an activity;

         d)   including in at least one data store responsive to the at least one input

15   provided in step (c), data representative of taking the first quantity of the

                first type of medical item from the first storage location for use in the

                second location or activity;

221

e) providing at least one input through at least one input device indicative of use of a second quantity of the first type of medical item at the second location or in the activity;

f) including in at least one data store responsive to the at least one input provided in step (e) data representative of use of the second quantity of the first type of medical item at the second location or in the activity; and

g) comparing through operation of at least one processor at least a portion of the data included in the data store in step (d) and in step (f).

2. The method according to claim 1 and further comprising:

h) providing at least one output indicative of at least one difference between the data included in the data store in step (d) and step (f).

3. The method according to claim 2 wherein step (g) includes comparing the first quantity and the second quantity.

4. The method according to claim 2 wherein step (g) includes noting the absence of data related to the first type of medical item being stored in the data store in step (f).

5.   The method according to claim 1 wherein:

step (c) includes providing at least one input indicative that the first quantity of the first type of medical item is being taken for stocking at a remote storage location outside the pharmacy which remote storage location the first type of medical item is taken for use by patients; and

wherein step (e) includes providing at least one input indicative that the second quantity of the first type of medical item has been stocked at the remote storage location.

6.   The method according to claim 5 and further comprising:

h)   providing at least one input through at least one input device adjacent the remote storage location indicative that a third quantity of the first type of medical item had been taken for use by a patient;

i)   including data in at least one data store responsive to the at least one input provided in step (h) indicative that the third quantity of the first type of medical item has been taken for use by the patient.

7.   The method according to claim 6 and further comprising the step of:

223

j)   returning a fourth quantity of the first type of medical item from the

        remote storage location to the pharmacy;

k)   providing at least one input through at least one input device indicative of

        returning the fourth quantity of the first type of medical item from the

        remote storage location to the pharmacy;

l)   including data in at least one data store responsive to the at least one input

        provided in step (k) indicative that the fourth quantity of the first type of

        medical item is being returned from the remote location to the pharmacy.

8.   The method according to claim 7 and further comprising:

m)   comparing through operation of at least one processor the first, second,

        third and fourth quantities of the first type of medical item.

9.   The method according to claim 8 further comprising:

n)   producing responsive to the comparison in step (m) at least one output

        indicative of an unaccounted for portion of the first type of medical item.

10. The method according to claim 1 wherein in step (c) the at least one input is indicative of use of the first quantity of the first type of medical item in a compounding activity.

11. The method according to claim 10 and wherein step (e) includes providing at least one input indicative of wasting a second quantity of the first type of medical item.

12. The method according to claim 11 and further comprising:

   h) creating a compound using the first type of medical item;

   i) providing at least one input through at least one input device indicative of storing in at least one storage location in the pharmacy the compound created using the first type of medical item;

   j) including in at least one data store, data responsive to the at least one input provided in step (i) data representative of storing the compound in the at least one storage location in the pharmacy.

13. The method according to claim 12 wherein the second quantity indicated in step (e) as being wasted comprises a portion of the first quantity of the first type of medical item which is wasted in creating the compound, and further comprising:

225

k) comparing the first quantity , the second quantity and an amount of the compound indicated as stored in the pharmacy in step (i).

14. The method according to claim 13 and further comprising:

l) providing at least one input through at least one input device responsive to the comparison in step (k) indicating a discrepancy;

m) including in at least one data store responsive to the at least one input provided in step (l) data representative of the discrepancy indicated in step (l).

15. The method according to claim 1 and further comprising:

h) borrowing a third quantity of a third type medical item from another facility;

i) providing at least one input through at least one input device indicative of borrowing the third quantity of the third type of medical item from the another facility.

226

j)   including in at least one data store data representative of borrowing the third quantity of the third type of medical item from the another facility.

16.   The method according to claim 15 and further comprising:

k)   including in at least one data store, data representative of storing the third quantity of the third type medical item in at least one storage location in the pharmacy.

17.   The method according to claim 15 and further comprising:

k)   returning the third quantity of the third type medical item to the another facility.

l)   providing at least one input through at least one input indicative of returning the third quantity of the third type of medical item to the another facility.

m)   including in at least one data store responsive to the at least one input provided in step (l) data representative of the returning of the third quantity of the third type of medical item to the another facility.

18.   The method according to claim 15 and further comprising:

generating through operation of at least on processor an electronic representation of DEA Form 222 corresponding to the borrowing of the third type of medical item concerning which data is input in step (i).

5   19.   The method according to claim 1 and further comprising:

h)   loaning a third quantity of a third type medical item to another facility;

i)   providing at least one input through at least one input device indicative of loaning the third quantity of the third type of medical item from the another facility;

10   j)   including in at least one data store responsive to the at least one input provided in step (i), data representative of loaning the third quantity of the third type of medical item to the another facility.

20.   The method according to claim 19 and further comprising:

k) generating through operation of at least one processor an electronic representation of DEA Form 222 corresponding to the loan of the third type of medical item concerning which data is input in step (i).

21. The method according to claim 20 wherein in step (k) at least one field in the electronic representation of the form is populated automatically through operation of the at least one processor.

22. The method according to claim 19 and further comprising:

l) receiving a return of the loan of the third quantity of the third type of medical item from the another facility;

m) providing at least one input through at least one input device indicative of the return of the third quantity of the third type of medical item from the another facility;

n) including in at least one data store responsive to the at least one input provided in step (m), data representative of the return of the third quantity of the third type medical item from the another facility.

229

23.   Computer readable media operative to cause at least one processor to carry out the
method steps recited in claim 1.